

Delaware River Channel Deepening Project

Recent press reports have raised concerns that the recently completed Comprehensive Economic Reanalysis of the Delaware River Main Channel Deepening Project contains errors in key statistics that could have led to an overstatement of project benefits. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers takes seriously any significant comments or concerns that are raised about a Corps study. We are analyzing the concerns raised in recent press reports in keeping with our mission to provide the nation and its citizens with sound recommendations based on the best engineering and science available.

The Delaware River Main Channel Deepening Project was suspended in April 22, 2002, by Major General Robert Griffin, director of Civil Works, following a briefing by the General Accounting Office that criticized a 1998 USACE economic reevaluation of the project. USACE's Philadelphia District then contracted an external economic consultant to perform the economic reanalysis of the proposed project, while the district provided quality control on the process. Concurrently, two other external reviewers performed independent technical review of the analysis while the Corps' North Atlantic Division provided oversight and quality assurance.

USACE Headquarters in Washington, D.C., then directed the Corps Institute for Water Resources to engage an external independent company to review all documents, assumptions, economic models and actions leading to the preparation of the final report. This company constituted a panel comprised of three distinguished experts in economics -- two professors with expertise in national economic development and one navigation expert from private industry. Following their comments on an initial draft report, the Corps addressed their concerns and produced the final reanalysis for their review and approval.

On December 18, 2002, USACE announced that the Delaware River main Channel Deepening Project was justified for construction based on the results of the economic reanalysis.